

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Topolcany Military Airfield

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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General

1. An airfield is located on the east bank of the Nitra River, near the town of Topolcany (N 48-34, E 18-11), between the river and the Prievidza - Nitra highway. The airfield is rectangular, with the length northeast to southwest 2,650 meters, the width 1,500 meters. The part of the airfield which is not skirted by streams and the Nitra River was being fenced with barbed wire fencing anchored on wooden posts.
2. A concrete road branches off from the highway which leads from Topolcany to the southwest, directly to the south corner of the field. To the north of the field, the road leading from Topolcany to Praznovce passes by. The field has no railroad spur. Despite the fact that Topolcany has large sidings and loading ramps because of its sugar refinery, more and bigger ramps and sidings are being built. An additional siding was being installed at the Topolcany railroad station.
3. Construction of the field was started in 1952 and the buildings were not yet complete by spring.¹ Despite this fact, a fighter pilot training school arrived at the field, to be followed soon by a civil flying school. Temporary wooden barracks were erected for them. The barracks compound, the headquarters building, the two hangars, fuel depots and other installations were not completed until the summer of 1954. It was noticed that the bridge which carries a road from the field across the Nitra River has been changed over to a reinforced concrete structure.
4. The power line for the field branches off from the main Topolcany line at the road bridge near the field and continues underground to the south corner of the field. The cable ends in a transformer located in the boiler house of the barracks compound.
5. Nothing is known about searchlights at the field, although concrete searchlight emplacements (Item 19 on sketch) were constructed at the following locations: at the north flank along the west edge of the runway; at the south flank, at the corner between the west side of the runway and the north side of the taxi strip.

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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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The edges of the runway and the taxi strip are outlined in yellow and red lights. The edge of the field as well as the roof of the tower are outlined in red neon lights.

Runways and taxi strips

6. The concrete runway, which starts some 700 meters west of the west flank of the field, runs from northeast to southwest. It is 60 meters wide. A second runway reportedly is to be started next spring some 300 meters west of the present one. This contention is confirmed to a degree by the fact that some five carloads of basalt stones were dumped in the western part of the field, and could be used to construct the runway bed.
7. A concrete taxi strip 35 meters wide runs along the southern flank of the field, at right angles to the runway. The area between the taxi strip and the aircraft dispersal area in front of the hangars is constantly rolled.

Buildings

8. Two concrete hangars, 85 x 50 meters, with corrugated roofs and sheet metal doors are located on the field (Item 4 on sketch); two additional hangars are planned (Item 7 on sketch) and one, 120 x 60 meters, is under construction (Item 5 on sketch). Completion is scheduled for December.
9. The airfield headquarters building (Item 6 on sketch), which has three stories and measures 60 x 30 meters, was completed in October 1954. The control tower, located on top of the flat roof of the headquarters building, is flat-roofed and 15 meters high. The tower is semicircular to the north and square to the south.
10. Three storage buildings (Item 8 on sketch) are complete and two are under construction (Item 9 on sketch). The storage buildings measure 40 x 15 meters each.
11. The barracks compound is located at the confluence of the Solcany Stream with the Nitra River and consists of the following: 5 three-story buildings; one gymnasium; one assembly shop; one one-story structure which is a canteen or clubhouse; one boiler house; 5 garages or storage buildings. Two three-story buildings and 6 one-story structures which serve as officer's quarters are under construction (Item 11 on sketch). There are no aircraft dispersal areas in this section.
12. Thus far, no defense installations have been erected. No data is available on a meteorological station.

Motor Fuel and Ammunition

13. The central fuel warehouse (Item 15 on sketch) is located southwest of Solcany, between the Solcany highway and the Solcany stream, some 300 meters east of the southern corner of the field. The fuel depot has an undetermined number of subterranean fuel tanks and a pumphouse. The entire area is surrounded by barbed wire. It is rumored that there is as yet no fuel in this storage area. Currently, a pipeline is being built from the fuel depot to the south corner of the field (Item 16 on sketch).
14. Two railroad tank cars, dismantled from their undercarriages, were buried in the ground between the two hangars (Item 4 on sketch). The tanks, surrounded by earth revetments, are said to contain about 15 cubic meters of fuel each. There are also three mobile tank trucks on the field.
15. An ammunition depot, measuring some 400 x 200 meters, is under construction on the west flank of the airfield, on the banks of the Nitra River. The installations are buried deep underground and the exact number could not be determined (Item 18 on sketch). It seems that the depot is being constructed so that it can be flooded by the waters of the Nitra River at a moment's notice.

Radio and Radar

16. The control tower contains an ultra-short-wave radio station and a simple spherical antenna measuring 2.5 x 3.5 meters is mounted on the tower roof.

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17. There is no permanent radar installation at the field. However, a tower-like structure (Item 14 on sketch), located between the east flank of the field and the Solcany highway, reportedly will be used by radar installations when ready.

Personnel and Activity

18. The Topolcany Airfield houses the following:
- a. One fighter pilot training school of the Czechoslovak Air Force
 - b. One independent aircraft service company
 - c. A civil flying school
19. The commandant of the fighter pilot training school is Major (fnu) Dvorec. There are 50 instructors. In ~~summer 1954~~ some 200 men were ordered to take this course. Each trainee is in his second year of military service and all 200 men were of the class of 1932. The following aircraft are at the disposal of the school: 20 YAK-9s; 8 YAK-3s, 17 Sokols, and one bi-plane used for courier service (make unidentified). Students of the flight training school first fly Sokol aircraft. The trainees have already passed basic flying school. After checking out in the Sokols, trainees learn to fly in formation. This period of instruction is followed by flights in the YAK-9s, including aerobatics, pursuit flying and dog fighting, taught both for individual combat aircraft and also for formations. The final phase of training involves the teaching of power dives, from a height of from 8,000 to 9,000 meters. Almost always, and particularly in good weather, the field is busy with all manner of flying activity from 0600 hours until 1500 hours daily.
20. The independent aircraft service company is divided into headquarters, guard, signal, workshops, and transportation units and has four gasoline tank trucks, a workshop truck, a signal truck, one other truck and one automobile at its disposal.
21. The civil flying school is not under the jurisdiction of the Czechoslovak Air Force. It has eight instructors and 40 students. The students learn to fly Bucker-Bestmann planes; four Sokol aircraft are also used. Students assigned to this course live in wooden barracks (Item 20 on sketch).

1. Comment: Presumably spring 1954 is meant.

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Legend to Sketch of Topolcany Military Airfield

1. Concrete runway
2. Concrete taxi strip
3. Aircraft dispersal area
4. Completed hangars
5. Large hangar under construction
6. Airfield headquarters building
7. Small hangar under construction
8. Storage warehouses completed
9. Storage warehouses under construction [not indicated on sketch]
10. Barracks compound
11. Officer's quarters under construction
12. Long-distance electric power lines (overhead)
13. Electric cable (underground)
14. Radar station under construction
15. Central fuel depot
16. Pipeline
17. Temporary fuel tanks
18. Central ammunition depot
19. Concrete searchlight emplacements
20. Wooden barracks used as quarters by students of the civil flying school.

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